

Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

INSPECTION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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CLARK KENT ERVIN

IG Homeland Security

GLENN FINE

IG Justice

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IG Labor

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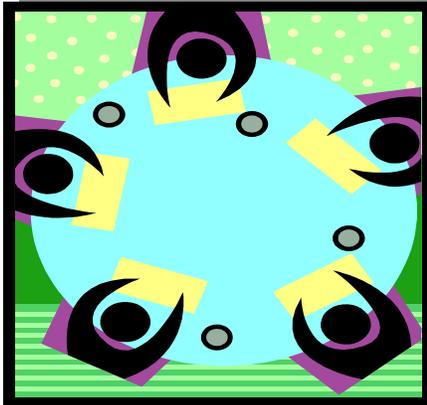
IG VA

DARA CORRIGAN

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DEFENSE OIG HOSTS APRIL I&E ROUNDTABLE MEETING

The Department of Defense OIG hosted the Roundtable's April 29 meeting at their Arlington, VA, offices. DoD's Deputy IG for Inspections and Policy, Jerry Hansen, and the Director for Inspections and Evaluations, William (Brem) Morrison, gave an overview of the Defense OIG's new inspections function.

According to Jerry and Brem, OIG created the I&E unit in September 2003, transferring staff from its Audit and Intelligence directorates. The unit has six divisions: (1) National Security/Homeland Defense; (2) Defense Agency, Joint Operations, and Service IGs; (3) Engineering and Environment; (4) Special Projects and Technical Support; (5) Safety and Occupational Health; and (6) Reserve Forces Integration/Utilization. The divisions address high-risk areas identified by OIG and GAO, as well

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as priority concerns in the President's Management Agenda.

The unit will have a staff of 50 by the end of FY 2005; 20 staffers are currently on board. Current projects include reviews of the Military Chaplains Program, Trafficking in Persons, Joint IG Policy and Training Program, and Inequality in Treatment of Mobilized Reserve Component Units.

Brem noted that he has the luxury of building the new unit from scratch and, in doing so, looks forward to leveraging the experience of I&E Roundtable members.

FEEDBACK NEEDED ON UPDATE OF QUALITY STANDARDS FOR INSPECTIONS

Elise Ennis (Energy OIG) distributed proposed changes to the Standards and asked Roundtable members to contact her as soon as possible with comments at 202-586-7239 or by email at Elise.Ennis@hq.doe.gov.

Elise noted two proposals that have sparked great interest: (1) increasing the inspector/evaluator training requirement from 40 to 80 hours every 2 years; and (2) conducting external peer reviews. She reported that resource constraints at some OIGs might



UPCOMING MEETINGS

The I&E Committee and Roundtable will hold their next meetings in October. Labor IG Gordon Heddell will host the Committee meeting.

A host agency is needed for the Roundtable's meeting.

Please contact Debbie Holmes if you are interested.

For more information about any item in this newsletter, contact Debbie Holmes at 202-482-2600 (Dholmes@oig.doc.gov) or Jill Gross at 202-482-2754 (Jgross@oig.doc.gov).

make increased training requirements difficult to meet, and suggested the standards instead require units to "strive to achieve 80 hours, with a minimum of 40 hours of training required." As for the second issue, Elise noted that establishing a peer review process seems appropriate given that audit and investigative operations undergo such reviews and that the Administration is emphasizing performance evaluation.

Once Elise receives comments from the Roundtable, she will incorporate changes and send a draft of the proposed standards to members for a final review. The I&E Committee hopes to complete this project within the next few months.

2003 I&E COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT, I&E SURVEY ISSUED AT IG RETREAT

I&E Committee Chair Johnnie Frazier presented fellow IGs with the annual report on Committee achievements and a final I&E survey report at this year's IG retreat, held on March 22-24, 2004, in Annapolis, MD.

The annual report highlights some of the Committee's key projects completed in 2003—such as the travel card guide, purchase card guide, and I&E survey. Equally important, it notes continuing opportunities for collaboration, as well as work in progress and some of the challenges shared in improving I&E processes throughout the IG community. Both documents are posted on the IGSNet web site at <http://www.ignet.gov>.

The survey of I&E units gives an excellent profile of the 26

units and highlights recent examples of their work.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Members discussed ideas for several new projects at last month's Roundtable meeting:

Vehicle Fleet Management

Pam Boteler, Interior OIG, reported that her office recently completed a study of Interior's vehicle fleet management programs, and had previously suggested this as a focus for other IGs. However, she noted that GAO is now preparing a government-wide review (excluding Defense and Interior, since those two agencies had already done such work). Pam added that GSA is also preparing its own report on fleet management and that OMB may issue new guidance in this area.

U.S. Government Response to Biological Incidents

Dave Williams, USPS IG, suggested looking at how federal agencies handled the 2001 anthrax attacks, with the goal of identifying lessons learned and work remaining to ensure an effective response to similar attacks in the future. The Roundtable members agreed that this would be a good topic of review but it should also cover chemical, nuclear and other potential threats.

Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA)

Labor IG Gordon Heddell asked the Roundtable to consider an interagency review of FECA to look at issues beyond DOL's perspective. The PCIE Audit Committee is also looking at this as a possible topic.

SURVEY INTERESTS NOTED

Responses to the I&E survey indicated interest in other possible I&E Roundtable projects in two general areas—self-help (guides, best practices, etc.) and crosscutting work (e.g., reviews of physical and personnel security, disaster preparedness, procurement/government contracting, information technology, overseas inspections, and visa and immigration issues).

If you are interested in any of these projects, please contact Debbie Holmes.

Directory of OIG Reports on Purchase and Travel Card Usage – Please continue to send web site links for completed reports on either of these topics to Eleazar Velazquez at velazquez@oig.doc.gov or Debbie Holmes.

FALL/WINTER 2004 JOURNAL OF PUBLIC INQUIRY

At the request of GSA IG Dan Levinson, also Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal*, the Fall/Winter 2004 edition will focus on I&E issues and news. This is an excellent opportunity to highlight pertinent issues or unique practices within the OIG I&E community.

George Grob, HHS OIG, is preparing a historical perspective on I&E work under the IG Act. Johnnie Frazier, Commerce IG, will author an article on the nature of I&E activities in specific agencies, including a look at some of the more controversial issues facing the I&E community.